

with only the summer birds of the region, leaving unrecorded many of the winter visitants, while "no attempt has been made to list the water birds."

The region here treated is faunally one of great interest, and the information thus brought together adds greatly to our knowledge of the vertical range of a large number of species in the Central Sierra region of California. The paper also includes a large amount of new information respecting the nesting habits of many previously little-known birds, and contains also numerous photographic illustrations of their nests and eggs.—J. A. A.

Pearson's 'Stories of Bird Life.'¹—Professor Pearson's attractive little book, while intended for general reading, "is especially designed for use in schools as a supplementary reader, beginning with the fourth grade." It consists of twenty chapters or 'stories', written in a popular vein and appropriately illustrated, with two appendices, the first giving descriptions of the 27 birds mentioned more or less prominently in the 'stories', and the second containing 'Suggestions for Bird Study', but there is no index nor list of illustrations. The following selection of titles indicates the scope and general character of the stories: 'The Arredondo Sparrow Hawk,' 'Our Chimney Dwellers,' 'The Childhood of Bib-Neck,' 'Robin Redbreast,' 'An Old Barred Owl,' 'The Birds of Cobb's Island, Virginia,' 'A Pair of Eagles,' 'Bird Key,' 'The Mocking Bird,' 'A Bobwhite Family,' 'The city of the Longlegs,' 'A Quartet of Woodland Drummers,' etc. The author tells us: "These stories are not fanciful, but are true to bird life. The Arredondo Sparrow Hawk, Ruffle-Breast and Socrates were particular birds well known to others as to me. In the case of the Bob-white family, Bib-neck, the Plover, I have combined into the lives of a few birds incidents I have known to occur to many. The accounts of visits to birds' nests, bird colonies and the like are given as they occurred."

Prof. Pearson is an earnest bird lover and a sympathetic and entertaining writer, and his 'stories' tend not only to instruct, but to inspire an intelligent appreciation of the economic value, as well as the aesthetic interest, of birds to man. The book is attractively printed in large type, and merits a hearty welcome to the list of popular bird books.—J. A. A.

Sharpe's 'Hand List of the Genera and Species of Birds,' Volume III.²—Volume III of this great work follows with commendable prompt-

¹ Stories of Bird Life | By | J. Gilbert Pearson | Professor of Biology and Geology in the State Normal and Industrial College, | Greensboro, North Carolina | [Design] With Illustrations by and under the Supervision | of | John L. Ridgway | — | Richmond | B. F. Johnson Publishing Company | 1901—12mo, cloth, pp. 1-236, colored frontispiece, 7 half-tone plates, and numerous illustrations. Price, 60 cents.

² London, 1901, 8vo, pp. i-xii + 1-367.

ness Volumes I and II, considering the magnitude and great labor of the undertaking. Having already noticed at some length the scope and character of the 'Hand List' it is necessary here merely to call attention to the contents of the present volume,¹ which includes Dr. Sharpe's Orders XXXIV, XXXV, and a part of order XXXVI, or the Eurylamidae, the Menuridae, and the Mesomyodian and Acromyodian Passeres. These groups embrace 19 families, represented, in round numbers, by 400 genera and 3000 species, about equally divided between the Old World and New World. The numerically leading families are the Muscicapidae, with 696 species; the Tyrannidae, with 562; the Dendrocolaptidae, with 393; the Formicariidae, with 348; the Pycnonotidae, with 245; the Campophagidae, with 159; the Cotingidae, with 145; and the Hirundinidae, with 116. Among the larger genera are *Rhipidura* with 99 species, *Thamnophilus* with 72, *Pitta* with 51, *Synallaxis* with 49, *Grallaria* with 42, *Siptornis* and *Piezorhynchus* each with 41, and *Hirundo* with 40; while as many more genera include from 30 to 40 species each. It should, however, be understood that 'species' in this connection means nameable forms, no nomenclatural distinction being made in the 'Hand List' between species and subspecies.

Dr. Sharpe has brought the subject down to about the end of the year 1900, and in some cases well into 1901, although the date of the preface is July 10, 1901. Note is duly made of the many generic changes pointed out as necessary by Oberholser and Richmond during the last two or three years, and most of them receive Dr. Sharpe's approval. *Formicivora*, however, we are glad to see, holds its place as against *Drymophila*, which latter now replaces *Myrmeciza*.

The American genus *Polioptila*, it may be noted, now finds a resting place in the Old World family Muscicapidae!

The excellent character of the work, mentioned in our notices of previous volumes, is well sustained, and the same care has been taken to secure revision of the proofsheets by leading authorities, which include seven ornithologists of England, six of the most prominent European ornithologists, and six in America. — J. A. A.

Stark's 'Birds of South Africa.' Vol. II.² — The second volume of 'The Birds of South Africa,' has been prepared by Mr. W. L. Sclater, Director of the South African Museum, from manuscripts left by the late Dr.

¹ For a notice of Vol. I see this Journal, XVII, Jan. 1900, pp. 79-81, and of Vol. II, *ibid.*, XVIII, Jan. 1901, pp. 120, 121.

² The | Birds of South Africa | By | Arthur C. Stark, M. B. | Completed by W. L. Sclater, M. A., F. Z. S. | Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town | Vol. II | with a Portrait, Map and Illustrations | London | R. H. Porter | 7 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1901. — Svo, pp. i-xiv + 1-323, frontispiece, 83 text cuts.